

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY NASSAU

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR, BF

SUBJECT: INCINERATOR FOR BAHAMAS POLICE FORCE

REF: NASSAU 0587

1. DEA HAS CONDUCTED AN EVALUATION OF THE TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF THE PROPOSAL TO PROVIDE AN INCINERATOR TO DISPOSE OF NARCOTICS SEIZURES FOR THE BAHAMAS POLICE FORCE. A COPY WILL BE PASSED TO YOU.

2. DISPOSAL OF MARIHUANA AND OTHER ILLICIT NARCOTICS THROUGH INCINERATION COULD BE CONSIDERED APPROPRIATE, PROVIDED OTHER LESS COSTLY SUITABLE MEANS ARE NOT AVAILABLE. THE ACQUISITION COST OF THE MODELS EVALUATED IN THE DEA STUDY RANGED FROM \$11,800 TO \$29,000, WITH A BURN RATE CAPABILITY IN POUNDS PER HOUR FROM 75 TO 460. A REASONABLE BURN RATE APPEARS TO BE AROUND 400 POUNDS PER HOUR IN ORDER TO MEET ESTIMATES OF MARIHUANA TO BE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DESTROYED. (USING AVERAGE SEIZURES FOR A PERIOD OF A

YEAR, A REASONABLE AVERAGE MONTHLY DESTRUCTION RATE WOULD BE 10 TONS.) MONTHLY OPERATING COSTS BASED ON CHARGES FOR OIL, ELECTRICITY, MAINTENANCE AND OPERATORS' SALARIES RANGED FROM \$2,600 TO \$14,500. THE WILLINGNESS AND CAPABILITY OF THE BAHAMAS GOVERNMENT TO ACCEPT AND MAINTAIN

SUCH SUPPORT FUNDING IS A CONSIDERATION TO BE ASSESSED.

3. SINCE IT APPEARS THAT THE OVERWHELMING BULK OF NARCOTICS SEIZURES ARE OF MARIHUANA, THE FEASIBILITY OF DISPOSITION BY DUMPING INTO THE OCEAN WITH SUITABLY WEIGHTED CONTAINERS MIGHT BE JUST AS EFFECTIVE AND LESS EXPENSIVE. POLLUTION WOULD BE VIRTUALLY NON-EXISTENT SINCE ONLY VEGETABLE MATTER IS INVOLVED AND IT WOULD DECOMPOSE. INCINERATORS, ON THE OTHER HAND, IN ADDITION TO BEING MORE EXPENSIVE TO INSTALL AND OPERATE WOULD, IN FACT, INTRODUCE POLLUTANTS INTO THE ATMOSPHERE. LANDFILL TYPES OF DISPOSAL USING EXISTING EARTH-MOVING EQUIPMENT ALSO WOULD SEEM TO BE LESS EXPENSIVE AND EQUALLY EFFECTIVE. REGARDING TYPES OF NARCOTICS OTHER THAN MARIHUANA, THE SMALLER AMOUNTS SEIZED COULD PROBABLY BE DISPOSED OF CHEMICALLY IN A LABORATORY OR BY OTHER LESS COSTLY MEANS.

4. THE USG WISHES TO BE RESPONSIVE TO THE NEEDS OF THE BAHAMIAN GOVERNMENT, BUT WE DO THINK THE ABOVE CONSIDERATIONS SHOULD BE CAREFULLY WEIGHED BEFORE DISCUSSING THE PROBLEM WITH THE HOST GOVERNMENT AND POSSIBLY MISLEADING THEIR EXPECTATIONS. EXAMINATION OF THE MORE PRACTICAL AND LESS EXPENSIVE MEANS OF MARIHUANA DISPOSAL BY THE MISSION IS REQUESTED. SISCO

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